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RECENT LITERATURE.

Chamberlain's Canadian Birds.*— This is not among the least of recent indications of activity of Canadian workers. It is more extensive in its scope than Mr. McIlwraith's treatise, including a systematic annotated list of all the birds of North America, north of the United States and British Boundary, excepting Alaska. Considerably more than *one-half* of North American Birds are found within these broad limits, and Mr. Chamberlain has occasion to treat 556 species. These are arranged and named according to the A. O. U. Code and Check-List, and quite fully annotated from all the information available to the author, so far as their geographical distribution is concerned. Without any other biographical matter, it makes a handsome volume of convenient size, invaluable for ready reference. In paper and typography, it is decidedly the best-looking bird-book that has reached us from 'over the line,' though not quite free from misprints, and by some oversight repeatedly giving generic names with a lower-case initial letter. But these are trifling defects, of no weight in estimating the value of the treatise. It at once takes a place of its own, distinct from Mr. McIlwraith's; and the two together very fairly represent what Canada has to offer us at present in respect of ornithology.

In his preface Mr. Chamberlain takes occasion to pointedly comment upon the backwardness in coming forward of the Canadian authorities in the matter of ornithology. His strictures should have great weight because they are simply true, and because they are said by one who has earned the right to speak by his own talents, industry and enterprise. We heartily welcome the successful outcome of the author's researches thus far, and wish him all favorable conditions for their further prosecution.—E. C.

Seebohm's 'Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ.'—Mr. Seebohm's book on the 'Charadriidæ,'† or 'Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and their Allies,' is a large quarto, illustrated with twenty-one beautifully colored plates of species hitherto unfigured or badly figured; in typographical execution it is almost faultless, forming altogether a sumptuous specimen of book-making. The text abounds in beautiful cuts, the greater part being head-pieces or illustrations of structural details.

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* A Catalogue | of | Canadian Birds, | with | Notes on the Distribution of the Species. | By | Montague Chamberlain. | — | Saint John, N. B. | J & A. McMillan, 98 Prince William Street. | 1887. | 1 vol. cloth, sm. 4to paper, 8vo typebed, title and pp. i—vi, 1 l., 1-143.

† The | Geographical Distribution | of the Family | Charadriidæ | or the | Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and their Allies. | By | Henry Seebohm | author of "Siberia in Europe," "Siberia in Asia," "Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum" (Vol. 5), | "A history of British Birds, with coloured Illustrations of their Eggs," etc. | [Vignette—group of Avocets.] London: | Henry Sothern & Co., 136 Strand, W. C. and 36 Piccadilly, W.; | Manchester, 49, Cross Street.—No date. 4to. pp. xxix, 524, pll. xxi, numerous cuts in the text. On the back-title of the cover is the date, 1888.